



420749

**EPA NEW ENGLAND SUPERFUND PROGRAM  
TRIP REPORT**

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**Inspection Information**

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**Site Name:** Former TRW DOT Division

**Address:** 320/330 Nevada Street

**Town:** Newton

**State:** MA 02160

**CERCLIS #:** MAD001032671

**TDD #:** 9704-10-CSX

**S&W J.O. #:** 05000.3009

**Date of Inspection:** August 11, 1997

**Time of Inspection:** 9:00 am

**Weather Conditions:** Sunny, hot (temperatures in the 90s), humid

**Site Status at Time of Inspection:** (✓\*) ACTIVE ( ) INACTIVE

**Comments:** \*Site is active, although the TRW DOT Division no longer perform activities at the site. The site is occupied by four companies; Dragon Systems, Politzer and Haney, Matritech and Amcare Medical Services.

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**Personnel Performing Inspection**

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	<u><b>Names</b></u>	<u><b>Program</b></u>
( ) EPA :		
(✓) EPA Contractor:	Lisa White Sarah Dun	Stone & Webster Environmental Technology and Services
( ) State :		
(✓) Other :	Joe Biotti Wendy Mosher Joe Corbo Deborah Heffernan Andrea	Site Owner Dragon Systems Matritech Amcare Medical Services Politzer and Haney

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**Site Ownership-Current Owner**

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**Name:** Joseph Biotti

**Phone:** (617) 527-6242

**Address:** c/o 1 Nevada Realty Trust

97 Adams Street

Newton, MA 02160



SEMS DocID 595265

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### Site Visit: Brief Chronology

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- **8:45 am** - Lisa White and Sarah Dun arrived at the former TRW DOT Division site.
- **9:30 am** - Lisa White and Sarah Dun met with Joe Biotti (site owner). He could not stay with us at the time so he introduced us to Wendy Mosher from Dragon Systems.
- **9:45 am** - Begin tour of Dragon Systems (a computer software company). Dragon Systems occupies floors two through five of the former Mill Building. The second floor consists of offices. The third floor houses the computer room. Computers are sent off site for repairs, however, memory is added in-house. Also present on the third floor is a fire suppression system which utilized superpressurized Bromotrifluoromethane. The system is no longer used because of safety reasons (it displaces oxygen). The system was deactivated around May, 1997 however, there are three tanks still present on the third floor. A sprinkler system is now used in the event of fire. The fourth floor consists of offices. The fifth floor is vacant. Dragon Systems employs approximately 200 people. The only chemicals Dragon Systems use are cleaning fluids (Windex, Ajax, 409, etc.) and toner for printers/copiers.
- **10:05 am** - Met Andrea (office manager) of Politzer and Haney, also a computer software company. Politzer and Haney occupy the former electroplating room, located on the first floor of the former Mill Building. The entire floor consists of office space. The only chemicals Politzer and Haney use on-site are cleaning fluids and toner for printers/copiers. There is a racquetball court located along the electroplating room. There was no evidence of the cistern located in the former electroplating room.
- **10:15 am** - Begin tour of the former Assembly/Warehouse Building. The first floor is occupied by Dragon Systems, where they conduct their shipping operations. Pieces such as microphones, disks, and manuals are brought here, packaged and shipped.

The second floor is occupied by Matritech, a company that manufactures test kits for cancer diagnostics. The company conducts research and development and assembles test kits. An acid neutralization pit is located on the Nevada Street side of the building. Water from lab sinks is collected in a 100-gallon fiberglass tank, treated and discharged to sewer (MWRA permit). Contents of tank are continuously mixed -- Matritech goes through one to two gallons of neutralizer every six months. Solutions being discharged are mostly basic (pH at the time of site reconnaissance was 6.6). Discharge is constantly monitored for pH, zinc and mercury. Smalls jugs of chemicals (acid and base - each jug is approximately less than one gallon) are stored in the neutralization pit room.

No hazardous wastes are poured down sinks. Approximately 6 or 7 gallons of hazardous chemicals are stored in a nonflammable cabinet until picked up by Laidlaw. Chemicals are picked up quarterly. Looked over most recent manifest. Manifest was dated July 10, 1997 for wastes that were removed on September 25, 1996. Wastes included corrosive liquids, sulfuric acid, citric acid, acetone, silver nitrate, sodium hydroxide, mercury, zinc, methanol

and potassium permanganate.

In the Research & Development area there are three cabinets with unused hazardous material and one cabinet of waste hazardous material (see chemicals above). In addition, there is a cabinet that contains caustic, acid and solvent spill kits (two of each), as well as a mercury spill kit, respirators and low level radioactive waste absorbent. Very little radioactive waste is still stored on site. P-32 was formerly used for sequencing but Matritech has now elected to send out material and have sequencing performed off site. There are 6 or 7 bags of P-32 related waste on site. The bags contain gloves and paper waste (filter paper). Matritech is holding chemicals until they reach their half lives and then disposing of them. Currently they are holding P-32 (4 month holding time) and S-35 (2 ½ year holding time).

One cabinet of corrosive liquids was located in the manufacturing area.

Matritech employs approximately 40 people.

Matritech has been in this location since December, 1995. Prior to this time the space was leased by Hygea Science. Hygea Science manufactured test kits, specifically pregnancy test kits, and utilized a great deal of mercury. In April, 1996, Matritech employed Zecco, Inc. to power wash the whole system -- sinks, drains, neutralization tanks. The waste was sent out as hazardous waste.

- **11:30 am** - Met with Deborah Heffernan and toured Amcare Medical Services, a home service medical care company. Amcare occupies the former Plastic Moldings Building. There is a retail pharmacy on-site. Amcare deals with respiratory therapy and durable medical equipment, delivers canes and wheelchairs, possesses a mobile x-ray company (not located on-site) and performs sleep studies. Approximately 60 people are employed by Amcare.

There is a possibility that Amcare stores biological waste for a short period of time. Ordinarily Amcare arranges for the disposal of biological waste (i.e., sharps) from patients homes. In rare cases the waste may be temporarily stored at the Amcare facility prior to disposal.

There was no evidence of the process water well in the former Plastic Moldings Building.

- **11:40 am** - External tour of the site. The entire site is paved, with the exception of a narrow row of trees along Nevada Street. Residences surround the site on all sides. Behind the site to the northeast is a construction company (J. Biotti and Sons Construction). The construction site is unpaved and is used for storage, including large vehicles, a crane, and tree stumps. The soil is stained in several areas. There is a wetland area to the northwest of the former Mill Building. It appears to be in the backyard of the neighboring residence. The wetland is separated from the site by a chain link fence.
- **12:00 pm** - Site reconnaissance over.

## TRIP REPORT

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### Site Characteristics

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#### Quantities/Extent/Details

- ☐ **Cylinders:** None  
☐ **Drums:** None  
☐ **Lagoons:** None  
☐ **Tanks:** ☒ **Above ground:** Neutralization tank located in the former assembly/warehouse building. Tank is approximately 100-gallons in size. Water from lab sinks is piped in, treated with caustic or acid, and discharged to the sewer.  
☐ **Below ground:** None. Previously there was a 1,500-gallon underground storage tank (used to store TCE). The tank was removed in 1983.  
☐ **Asbestos:** None  
☐ **Piles:** None  
☐ **Stained Soil:** None  
☐ **Sheens:** None  
☐ **Stressed Vegetation:** None  
☐ **Landfill:** ☐ **Leachate seeps**  
☐ **Population in Vicinity:** estimate # in 1/4 mile radius 1,703  
☐ **Distance to nearest residence:** Approximately 50 feet to the northwest.  
☐ **Land use:** ☒ **Industrial** ☐ **Commercial** ☒ **Residential**  
☐ **Rural** ☐ **Agricultural**  
☐ **Wells:** ☐ **Drinking:** ☒ **Monitoring:** Previously four monitoring wells located on site. These wells have since been paved over.  
☐ **Other:**

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### On site/Off site Receptors

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#### Comments/Details

- ☐ **Drinking** ☐ **Private:**  
**Water** ☒ **Municipal:** Newton's drinking water is obtained from the MWRA's supply at the Quabbin Reservoir.  
☐ **Ground Water:**  
☐ **Unrestricted Access:** Access to the site is not restricted.  
☐ **Population in Proximity:** Population within 1/4 mile of the site is 1,703.  
☐ **Sensitive Ecosystem:**  
☐ **Other:**

## **TRIP REPORT**

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### **Site Observations/Concerns**

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Comments: (vegetation, topography, containment of materials, buildings, etc.)

See site sketch for details.

Site is essentially flat. All monitoring wells on site have been paved over. The only soil on site is a narrow, landscaped row of trees along Nevada Street.

There are two storm drains located behind the mill building. They are presently covered by manhole covers.

There is a wetland approximately 50 feet to the northwest of the site. It is approximately 5 acres in size and appears to be internally drained. Monitoring well installation has indicated groundwater to be found at approximately 5 feet below the site. The wetland is located down a small slope, approximately 5 feet below the site. Therefore, the possibility exists for previously contaminated groundwater to intercept the wetland.

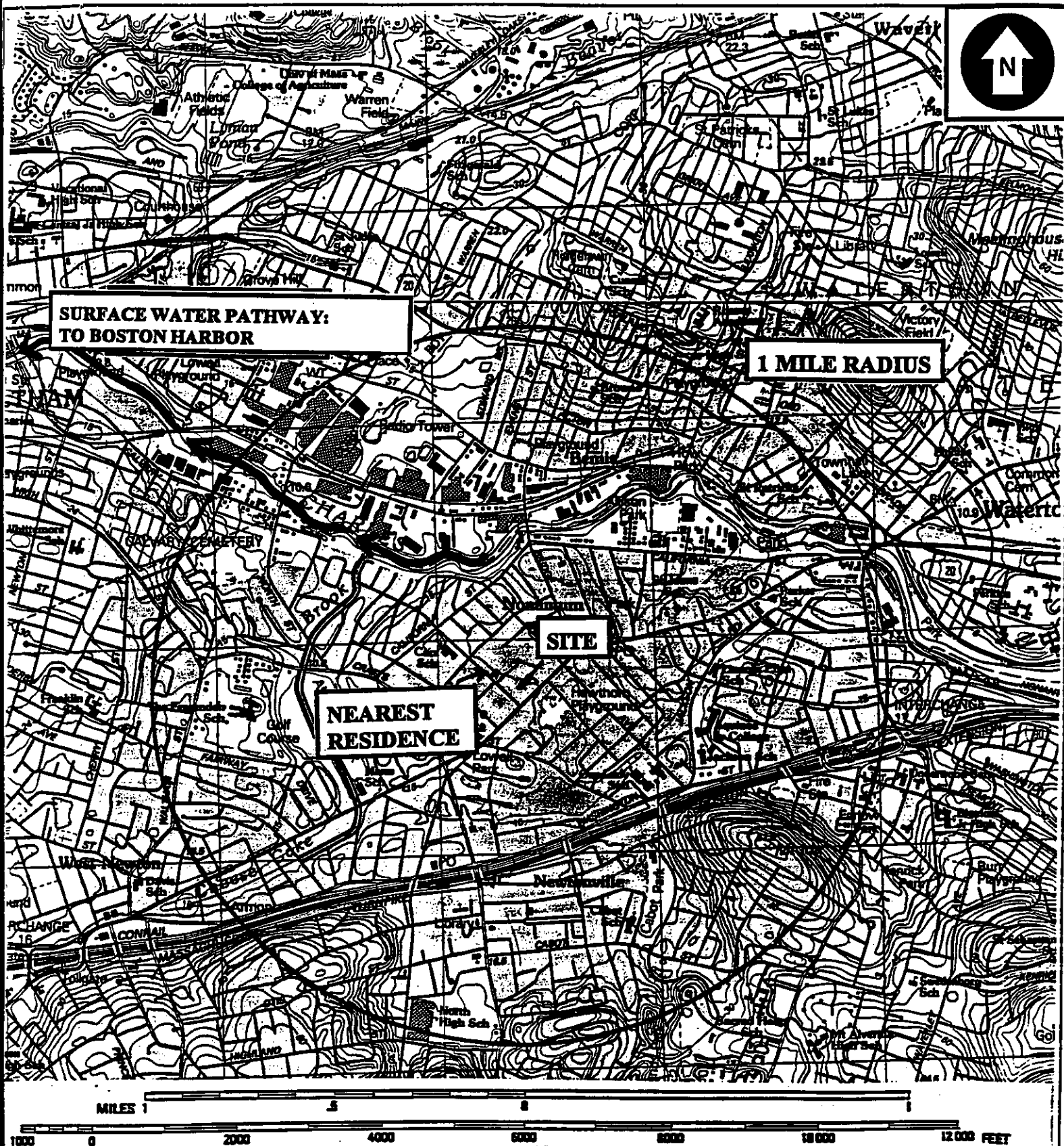
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**Report prepared by:** Lisa White

**Affiliation:** Stone & Webster Environmental Technology & Services

**Date:** September 15, 1997

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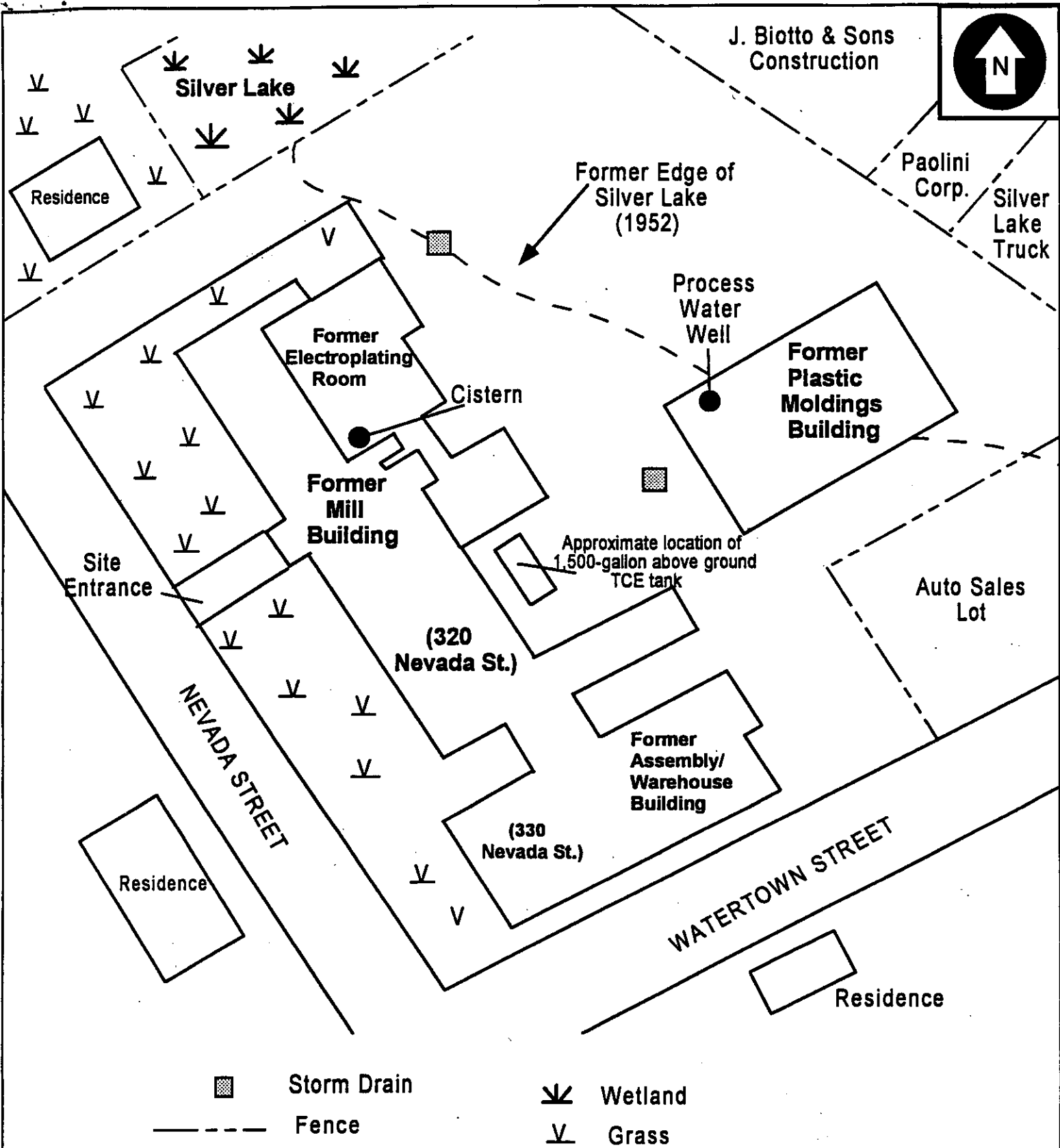
BASE MAP IS A PORTION OF BOSTON  
SOUTH (1987) AND BOSTON NORTH (1985)  
MASSACHUSETTS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES  
USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS.



Stone & Webster  
Environmental Technology  
and Services  
Boston, Massachusetts

Date: 7/10/97  
CERCLIS No.:  
MAD 001032671

Site Location Map  
FORMER TRW DOT DIVISION  
Figure 1



BASE MAP IS A PORTION OF BOSTON SOUTH (1987), MASSACHUSETTS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS.



Stone & Webster  
Environmental Technology  
and Services  
Boston, Massachusetts

Date: 6/4/97  
CERCLIS No.:  
MAD 001032671

Site Plan  
TRW DOT DIVISION (former)  
Figure 2

# STONE & WEBSTER ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES



a division of  
**STONE & WEBSTER ENGINEERING CORPORATION**

**245 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02210**

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JAKARTA, INDONESIA  
SEOUL, KOREA  
TORONTO, CANADA

Ms. LaVonne Johnson  
Site Assessment Contracts Manager  
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Technical Support & Site Assessment  
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Boston, Massachusetts 02203-2211

October 13, 1997  
J.O. No. 05000.3009  
TDD No. 9704-10-CSX  
CERCLIS No. MAD 001032671  
Letter No. COE-3009-0122  
Delivery Order No: 0030  
Contract No.: DACW33-94-D-0007

**Subject: Amendment to Trip Report  
TRW DOT Division (former), 320/330 Nevada Street, Newton, Massachusetts**

Dear LaVonne:

This letter is an amendment to the site observations/concerns section of the Trip Report reconnaissance for the former TRW DOT Division site which was submitted to EPA Region 1 on September 26, 1997. This Trip Report was inadvertently submitted earlier than usual (it is normally submitted simultaneously with the Non-sampling Rationale). The site was discussed with Nancy Smith on September 10, 1997 regarding whether or not the site should be sampled. It was decided that the site should not be sampled.

In reviewing the site history in detail for inclusion in the Non-sampling Rationale, the following facts were noted:

- a ground penetrating radar survey was performed on the TRW DOT Division site by Weston Geophysical, Inc. in July, 1984. The purpose of the GPR survey was to determine the margin of the former Silver Lake and determine the locations of filled areas (Note: Silver Lake was filled in 1952 to make room for a parking area on site)
- Information provided by an anonymous informant was documented by the Superfund Site Assessment Program in a September 4, 1991 memorandum from William Hanscom, EPA Inspector, to Nancy Smith, EPA Site Assessment Manager. According to the informant, the building located at 320 Nevada Street was owned and operated by the Ucinite/DOT Corporation during the 1940s-1950s. During this time, the company disposed of drums and

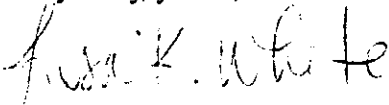


liquid hazardous wastes in Silver Lake. The informant alleged that the Raytheon Corporation and the Hartz and Mason Corporation also used Silver Lake for hazardous waste disposal. The informant claims that he/she used to fill cans with "white gooey foam" which were ignited and used as "flame throwers." According to this informant, the 320 Nevada Street property (mill building) was later divided into several parcels and sold to Pat Franci, the Belli Brothers, and the Angelo Paolini Corporation. Drums of waste were said to have been buried by these new owners when Silver Lake was filled.

Stone & Webster's observation is that the site history does not cite an activity which specifically looked for buried drums (geophysical investigations, test pits, etc.). Given that the Trip Report is used to determine possible removal actions, this amendment to the Trip Report is being filed to advise the EPA Removal Program of the existence of possible buried drums being part of the fill material in Silver Lake.

If you have any comments or questions regarding this submittal, please contact me at (617) 589-2115.

Very truly yours,



Lisa K. White  
Site Manager

cc: EPA Removal Program  
Nancy Smith, EPA Site Assessment Manager

